



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### HUNTING, FISHING PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR 17 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to authorize hunting or fishing programs, or both, on 17 additional national wildlife refuges.

The proposal, published in the May 30, 1986, Federal Register, lists 11 refuges for which sport fishing programs are proposed and seven refuges for which migratory game bird, upland game, or big game hunting programs are proposed. Some of the refuges already are open to hunting and/or fishing and this proposal would add an additional hunting or fishing program; and on others, hunting or fishing programs are being proposed for the first time.

The Refuge Administration Act and the Refuge Recreation Act authorize the Secretary of the Interior to permit hunting and fishing on refuges if these uses are compatible with the major purposes for which the refuge was established. The proposed hunting and fishing programs also must comply with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (where applicable) and the National Environmental Policy Act. Opening refuges to hunting and fishing requires publication of both a proposed rule and a final rule in the Federal Register.

The hunting and fishing programs proposed in this rulemaking have been found to be in accord with refuge purposes and will afford the general public greater opportunities for these recreational pursuits. In certain cases, additional regulations specific to individual refuges are proposed to ensure the compatibility of the hunting or fishing program with refuge purposes. These proposed regulations will cover which species may be harvested, in what manner, and when and where they may be taken.

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The refuges for which hunting and fishing programs are proposed are as follows:

Arizona -- San Bernadino NWR (migratory bird and upland game hunting)  
California -- San Pablo Bay NWR (migratory bird and upland game hunting)  
Delaware -- Prime Hook NWR (sport fishing)  
Georgia -- Eufaula NWR (big game hunting)  
Hawaii -- Hanalei NWR and Kakahaia NWR (sport fishing)  
Maine -- Pond Island NWR (sport fishing)  
Massachusetts -- Nantucket NWR (sport fishing)  
Nevada -- Ash Meadows NWR (migratory bird and upland game hunting)  
North Carolina -- Cedar Island NWR and Swanquarter NWR (sport fishing)  
Ohio -- Cedar Point NWR and Ottawa NWR (sport fishing)  
Oregon -- Bandon Marsh NWR (migratory bird hunting and sport fishing) and  
Bear Valley NWR (big game hunting)  
Tennessee -- Chickasaw NWR (migratory bird, upland game, and big game  
hunting)  
Pacific Islands Territory -- Johnston Atoll NWR (sport fishing)

The proposal also makes technical corrections to update the list of Alaska national wildlife refuges contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, but does not propose any changes to hunting and fishing programs on Alaska refuges.

More information concerning the proposed program at each refuge can be obtained from the May 30, 1986, Federal Register or by contacting the Division of Refuge Management at (202) 343-3922. Public comments on the proposed hunting and fishing programs are requested and should be sent to the Associate Director -- Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Room 3252, Washington, D.C. 20240. Public comments should be received by June 30, 1986.